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Geschichte des Europäischen Staatensystems im Zeitalter der Französischen Revolution und der Freiheits-Kriege (1789–1815). Von ADALBERT WAHL. [Handbuch der Mittelalterlichen und Neueren Geschichte, herausgegeben von G. von Below und F. Meinecke.] (Munich and Berlin: R. Oldenbourg. 1912. Pp. viii, 266.)

THIS is the twelfth volume of a series which began in 1903 with the publication by Dr. Schultz of *Das häusliche Leben der Europäischen Kulturvölker*. Like the other volumes that have appeared, the present work is intended for the specialist, the student of history, rather than for the layman. This does not imply, however, that we have here a new contribution based upon research in primary sources; it is rather a new presentation of the international history of Europe for this period based upon a careful correlation of the best secondary authorities by a competent and thorough scholar. Indeed the work becomes at times too academic in this respect. There is not a moot question of importance from the origin of the revolutionary wars to the question as to who set fire to Moscow, that is not seized upon with avidity as an opportunity to pit and balance authorities against each other.

In regard to the former Dr. Wahl agrees with von Sybel in attributing the war entirely to the Girondists. Ranke and those who follow him are wrong, he contends, when they ascribe it to the antagonism between the principles of the Revolution and Old Europe. Glagau's recent efforts to ascribe a large share of the cause to Vienna he regards as quite unsuccessful, while the influence of the king and queen seems to him negligible, "können gar nicht niedrig genug eingeschätzt werden" (pp. 31–33).

To Napoleon Dr. Wahl is unwilling to concede quite so large a space in his canvas as is usually done. He declines to see in him the "Eroberer- und Helden-natur", the superman, recently presented again to English readers in Mr. Hardy's *Dynasts*. Nor does he agree with the conception represented by Professor Lenz (*cf.* Max Lenz, *Napoleon*, Bielefeld, 1905), which looks upon Napoleon as the "child of fate", the heir of the Revolution who could not have acted otherwise than he did. Both conceptions, Dr. Wahl considers misleading. He finds the central theme, the dominating factor of the titanic struggle of these years, in the national and race psychology. "Der Hauptinhalt der Staatengeschichte der Jahre von 1792 bis 1815 ist eine gewaltige Auseinandersetzung zwischen dem revolutionären Frankreich und den wichtigsten Staaten des übrigen Europa" (p. 34). Herein too can be seen the explanation of the fact that the title makes no mention of Napoleon. The climax of Napoleon's power the author places in 1807 after Tilsit rather than three or four years later as is usually done. This enables him to introduce earlier and with greater emphasis the uprising of the nations, which he regards as the really dynamic force of the age.

The index is exiguous, giving only names of men and places. On the other hand the general bibliography as well as the special bibliographies for each division are up to date and selected with discrimination and judgment. A notable exception occurs in the omission of Mahan's works. Indeed a little familiarity with Mahan would have been a safeguard against speaking of the United States as an ally of Napoleon—"mit Napoleon im Bunde" (p. 201). It would also have secured more adequate treatment of the Baltic trade and its part in disrupting the system of Napoleon, thereby leading to the final catastrophe of which Wahl himself says, "Der Untergang der Grossen Armee in Russland ist das für die politischen Verhältnisse des Kontinents entscheidendste Ereignis des ganzen Zeitalters" (p. 220). But in spite of certain objections, which a volume raising so many polemical questions is sure to occasion, the fact remains that the work has exceptional merit, adequately filling the place for which it was intended.

WILLIAM E. LINGELBACH.

A History of the Peninsular War. By CHARLES OMAN, M.A., Hon. LL.D. Volume IV. December, 1810—December, 1811. *Mas-séna's Retreat; Fuentes de Oñoro; Albuera; Tarragona.* (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1911. Pp. xiv, 664.)

THE painstaking scholarship and the keenness of critical ability displayed in the successive volumes of Professor Oman's masterpiece assure it a place among the most notable contributions to the history of the Napoleonic era. The reader may continue to turn to the more glowing pages of Napier, but the student will consult Oman for the most scrupulously accurate account based upon the most complete researches. The literature and the archives of England, France, Spain, and Portugal have been worked through, valuable manuscripts in family archives have been ferreted out, such as the papers of D'Urban, Beresford's chief-of-staff, and of Scovell, Wellington's cipher-secretary; and nearly every important scene of action has been travelled over. With convincing certainty, Napier is corrected, the memoirs of Thiébault and Marbot are proved glowingly inaccurate, Masséna's chief-of-staff, Fririon, and his biographer, Koch, are repeatedly brought to book; and the despatches of the emperor himself are checked by the cold facts. Sixteen excellent maps and plans, abundant foot-notes, twenty-four appendixes of minutely accurate data of numbers engaged and lost, a good index, and marvelously careful proof-reading, testify to the indefatigable thoroughness of research and lavish care in the book-making by both author and publisher.

Abundant attention is given to the captures of Tortosa and Tarragona by Suchet, of Figueras by Macdonald, to the English attempt to break up Victor's siege of Cadiz by the battle of Barrosa, and to the multitude of minor operations, of which the most brilliant was Hill's